
The Ohio Independent Baptist

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December 2002 (Vol. 75, No. 6)

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The OIB

The Ohio Independent Baptist

The Newsletter Promoting Interdependence Among The Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Vol. 75 No. 6

December 2002

CHRISTMAS IN A TIME OF TERROR

Our Lord was born in a time of terror. Such a statement does not justify the terrible acts of violence that have been done across our world over the last several months. But it can put them in perspective for us.

Our Lord was born in a time of terror because His birth brought into sharp relief Herod's wicked agenda. You do know about Herod, don't you? Herod had his own agenda—the preservation of his own power and position. Herod brooked no rivals - among his family, his servants, or his subjects. When news came to Herod of a Jewish "king" born in Bethlehem his single intent was to destroy him. In attempting to do so he terrorized the entire district around that small town, killing every baby under two years of age.

At first he tried to masquerade as a devoted worshipper of this new king. He gave the wise men the impression that he intended to bow the knee to this little one—if only he knew where to find Him. Thankfully, an angel from the Lord "clued in" the wise men to Herod's true designs and they returned to their land by another route.

Here is the Bible's account of Herod's acts of terrorism

"Now when they (the wise men) had departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him'" (Matthew 2:13).

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry, and he sent forth and

put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men" (Matthew 2:16).

Herod was a terrorist consumed with himself and his own sinful agenda. We know from other Scriptures that he was in league with Satan himself in this attempt to destroy our Lord (Revelation 12:1-6). It is hard to believe the sorrow he caused as a result of his selfish, sinful, deceptive, and satanic actions. Scriptures tell us, *"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more"* (Matthew 2:18). Innocent people ended up deeply hurt over unbelievable loss. The unthinkable had happened in and around Bethlehem.

Yes, our Lord was born in a time of terror. His birth actually spawned an assault of terror with its resultant sorrow. And we still live in a day when evil men follow their sinful and selfish agendas. Deception and destruction are their chief weapons and Satan himself is still at work behind the scenes. It may seem that nothing has changed in 2000 years.

Yet the message of Christmas changed everything. It brought hope. With God's divine intervention, He began the final showdown to prove that neither wicked men nor Satan are ultimately in charge of this world. God overruled all opponents when He sent His Son into the world. God preserved His Son from Herod's vicious attack on that first Christmas. Nevertheless, our Lord in His lifetime "endured the hostility of sinners against Himself" (Hebrews 12:3). And we may

have to experience some of the same. Yet, even when men had done their worst to Him on the cross, Christ foiled their plans — He rose victoriously over death.

Neither Satan nor wicked men could thwart His gracious purpose in providing salvation for all who would believe. In fact, they only played right into His hands and ended up accomplishing what He had determined in the first place (Acts 4:27-28). Christ voluntarily laid down His life, took man's sin upon Himself, and then took His life back up again — despite the iron jaws of death itself.

Terrorists have come and gone in the history of the world. But God's plan remains constant (Ephesians 1:11). Jesus surprised the terrorists when He came the first time. He will surprise the terrorists when He comes again whoever they may be at the time. Rest assured! "When the fullness of time is come," He intervenes. His Will will be done on earth. Christmas reminds us that God rules this world. God transcends terrorists!



Nottingham staff at 75th OARBC Conference. Thanks for a great job!

See pages 6-7 for more 75th OARBC Conference photos.

From Our Hearts To Yours



Dave and Pat
Warren
State Representative



Max and Phyllis
Tucker
Church Planting
Coordinator

Merry Christmas!

The Lord willing, we Warrens will experience a family reunion this Christmas in Denver, Colorado. The children on this side of the Mississippi suggested we all do the travelling this year and go to Denver to be with our son, David, and his family. David then arranged for us to spend three days in the mountains together after Christmas.

We will be flying from four different airports, with plans to rendezvous at David and Michelle's home by Christmas Eve. Ed and Janice will fly from Dayton, Ohio. Steve and Cheryl from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mark and Darcie from Indianapolis, Indiana, and Pat and I from Columbus. Not to mention the anticipation of having our kids together, we look forward to having our five grandchildren together — six year-old Sydney, four-year old Alec, and our three little one-year old grandsons, Matthew, Benjamin, and William.

We thank the Lord for our family; each person makes a unique contribution to the group. Similarly, we are thankful for you, our broader family, and we want you to know it. Each pastor and each church are special to us and we are glad to be connected to you. The OARBC is an extended family of people who are "bound by the Word and to each other." We hope you will enjoy the family emphasis in this issue — noting the "family" pictures taken at the OARBC Conference. (If you want to see more of these pictures, check out this website: <http://users.hawken.edu/creno/>.) And so we say, "Merry Christmas" — from our heart and family to yours!

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Church Planters

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."

John Bunyan

We are sharing with you the prayer requests for the coming year from the hearts of our church planters.

New Community Baptist, Avon

Brian & Sharon Gardiner

Please pray for New Community Baptist Church as we continue to grow and develop. Pray for new believers to grow spiritually strong. Pray for continued spiritual harvest in the Avon area. Pray for wisdom regarding short term facility rental and long term land to be purchased.

SouthQwest, Strongsville

Dan & Rebecca Simmons

New Community Baptist of Strongsville started with six months of cultivation (22,000 touches). Now, we are in the middle of six months of cultivation and planting (monthly outreach services). In March, we will begin weekly services. Pray for God to complete our pastoral team, for community-wide impact, for weekly services to start well and for discipleship of young believers.

Dayspring Baptist, Columbus

Earl & Marilyn Shaffer, Barbara Taylor

To glorify God so there is no explanation for Dayspring but God. For boldness to speak and minister, open doors of opportunity, and God to save those who hear. To break 75 in worship attendance. To be godly and faithful so that God could entrust us with His little ones.

International Community Baptist, Lorain

John & Willie Mae Williams, Robert & Janet Whitty

Will you please pray for the team at International Community Baptist Church. Right now John is serving as the team leader, and Bob and Jan Whitty are serving as support members. We are in need of a Hispanic couple to be a part of this team. Pray that God will complete the team.

Northeast Community Baptist, New Albany

John & Michelle Morgan

David & Rosezell Stevenson

We are asking God for growth both spiritually and physically. Spiritually: share the gospel with 100 people this year, growth of new believers; physically: \$250,000 to build on 5 acres of land that we purchased in November '02; praise: provision of land, 8 salvation decisions, 10 baptisms, 17 new members in '02.

Grace Baptist Church, Geneva

Ross & Shirley DeFelice

Pray for the people of Grace Baptist Church, our present church. They are a small but a very capable group of people who are gifted with many leadership capabilities. They will be seeking another missionary to come and minister to them until they are led of the Lord to become self-supporting.

Now in closing, just let your Church Planting Coordinator place before you **one more important prayer request** for the coming year; that God will raise up couples to heed the call and become church planters with a vision to start sound, sensible, scriptural churches in the Heartland of America. The Lord will not use us until He has made us ready. Then we thank Him for knowing what He is doing.

Please note: We have just received word from Ross & Shirley DeFelice that they will be retiring on December 31, 2002. Our prayers are with you, Ross & Shirley. Congratulations for 28 years of faithful service to the Lord as Church Planters.

How To Reach Us...

State Representative

David & Pat Warren
360 College Hill Drive
Cedarville OH 45314
937-766-5913
warrenoarbc@juno.com

Church Planting Coordinator

Max & Phyllis Tucker
9163 Steamboat Way
West Chester, OH 45069
513-942-1295
pltucker5@juno.com



Deadline for February OIB
January 15
email address:
dandlthomas@glasscity.net
or write
327 East Drive
Dayton OH 45419

Thanks

to all who sponsored tables
& attended the Church
Investment Dinner. We
thank the Lord for the
\$826.41 profit cleared on that evening.

Across the State

Mid-Bethel

Douglas E. Kranenburg assumed the duties of senior pastor of **Good Shepherd's Baptist Church in Sidney** on Sunday, October 6. Kranenburg received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa; and graduated from Northwest Baptist Seminary in Tacoma, Washington, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. He and his wife, Judy, are the parents of five children.

On August 9, the **Faith Baptist Church of Kenton** broke ground for a major facility expansion. Slated for completion in early 2003, the expansion project will provide new offices, classrooms, nurseries and worship center. Dennis & Jana Burns lead the Kenton church.

On October 27, the congregation of **Fostoria Baptist** hosted a surprise appreciation dinner in honor of Pastor and Mrs. David Chapman for 17 years of faithful service. Along with testimonies from church members, the Chapmans' daughter, Rebecca, and sons Brian and Mark, (via e-mail) gave their thoughts on the life of a "preacher's kid" and expressed appreciation to their parents.

Hebron

Dan Parker recently joined the staff of **First Baptist of Elyria** as minister of music and worship. Dan and his wife, Bonnie, are parents of seven children and have ministered at First Baptist of Lapeer, Michigan, for the past 19 years. Brad Quick is senior pastor at First Baptist.

Bethany

Struthers Baptist Tabernacle reports being challenged and encouraged by Dr. William Fanning from the Mahoning Valley Rescue Mission on October 13, by Mike Riddle from the Institute for Creation Research on November 5, and by a report from Eugene and Felicia Oana on their work among the Romanian Gypsies on November 10.

Maranatha

Scott and Jennifer Duncan began their ministry at Grace Baptist Church in Minford on Sunday, October 6. The Duncans are expecting their first child in January.

As You Go

From a reader in Union County:

For a local parade we were building a float with a rocket ship that could be removed and used for Vacation Bible School. The ship was to be large enough for children to ride. While I worked on the project, a man whom I did not know stopped to help! We talked some and worked on the rocket the rest of the day.

The next day the same man came to help. After several hours of fabrication on the ship, we started putting together yet another float for the parade. I wondered if I should I present the Gospel message to him. Well, of course I should!!! On that hot summer day I said, "Do you like Mountain Dew? Let's take a soda break. I have something I would like to share with you". Then God gave me the opportunity to present the Gospel message to him. After sharing the "Romans Road" I said that I felt God had brought us together for a reason, and He agreed. I asked if he would like to ask Jesus to come into his heart. He said, "Yes."

Always be ready to give an answer...as you go.

Let your OARBC family know about that "open door" God gave you to witness during your normal routines of life. Send your testimony so that our readers might be encouraged in their own witnessing of the good news.

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Quiet Time For The Whole Family?

Yes, the whole family in the same passage yet each at their own level of comprehension!

Grades 1-2; 3-4; 5-6; Teen/Adult

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There's always something new at Scioto Hills! The summer of 2003 will be the first time we are offering both a Basketball and Soccer Camp. These Sports Camps are exciting new programs for kids entering grades 4-8. Our summers are filled with programs to suit all ages and all but Senior High Camps are under \$200! Summer registration forms will be arriving in your mailboxes soon. Either register by mail or online! Summer 2003 will also be the second year to offer the Revolution Camp and spots are limited.

Scioto offers a unique opportunity for teens this winter. The "247" Teen Conference held February 14-17 is a weekend that will focus on living the Christian life on more than just Sundays and Wednesdays, but 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dr. Scott Dixon, Bible professor at Cedarville University, will be the keynote speaker and Jason and Tim Holdridge, from Calvary Baptist Church in Bellefontaine, will lead in worship. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity, so call today to register your group.

Another new aspect at Scioto Hills is our growing staff. Gabe and Marla Taviano have just joined the Scioto Hills staff, however they are not new to Scioto Hills. They have both been life long campers of Scioto and met the summer they worked as counselors. Gabe is our new website designer and works in Promotion and Publicity. Marla is a stay-at-home mom to Olivia and Ava. To see some of Gabe's work, visit our website!

Upcoming Events

Feb 14-17	247 Teen Conference
Feb 21-22	Junior Advance (3-6)
April 11-12	Men's Retreat
April 29-May 1	Senior Saints
May 28-June 7	Summer Staff Training
June 9-14	New Frontier Camp
	Alpha Camp
June 16-21	New Frontier Camp
	Alpha Camp
June 23-28	New Frontier Camp
	Alpha Camp
	Quest Camp
June 30- July 5	Sponsor Camp
	Basketball Camp
	Soccer Camp
	Mountain Bike Camp

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As you know, the Ranch has a busy ministry all year long. Raising funds for a dining hall and continuous construction make us even busier. So a letter like this from a teenager helps us keep it all in perspective.

"Throughout many years I have gone to your camp. I've always had a blast every year. Your ministries, camp counselors, leaders and all your guest speakers help guide me in the walk with the Lord. I thank you very much for all you've done for me and for everybody. I encourage you to continue working in teenagers' lives and your hard work to keep the ranch inviting, clean and a great resource of God's teachings."

Praise the Lord for camping opportunities at Skyview through the teaching of Biblical life skills in our programs.

Dining Hall Update

- ┐ All of the windows are installed – Wow! What a beautiful view we have!
- ┐ The house wrap is completed. Our huge, dramatic, stone fireplace is now peaking through the roof.
- ┐ Quotes are arriving daily for electrical, plumbing and heating.
- ┐ We extend a hearty round of applause to our 160 hard-working volunteers to-date.
- ┐ Keep praying for the project, for finances, for volunteers and for safety.

Summer Schedule 2003

Camp Zing #1	June 16-21
Camp Zing #2	June 23-28
Camp Zing #3	July 28-Aug. 2
Edge Camp #1	June 30-July 5
Edge Camp #2	July 14-19
Blast! #1	July 7-12
Blast! #2 NEW!	July 21-26
Homebuilders #1	August 4-9
Homebuilders #2	August 11-16

Upcoming Events

Jan 24-25	Winter Blast! Teen Retreat
Feb 21-23	Teen Max Retreat NEW!
Feb 28-Mar 1	Winter Zing Junior Retreat
Mar 7-8	Winter Blast! Teen Retreat
Mar 14-15	Winter Zing Junior Retreat
April 4-6	Basic Training NEW!
May 1-3	Annual Men's Retreat
May 23-26	Memorial Work Weekend

Camp Patmos

920 Monagan Rd.
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419-746-2214
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e-mail: info@camppatmos.com
www.camppatmos.com

One of our goals this past year was to have a staff focused on the ministry, ready and willing to be used as tools by the Lord to help change lives. We are thrilled to say that this has happened.

This year our retreat season was the longest it has ever been, ending the first weekend of November, as more and more churches and organizations find out about our camp on Kelleys Island. We want to say a special thank you to the volunteers and summer staff who helped us out during our retreat season.

Our mission statement says, "Camp Patmos exists as an outreach of the local church, challenging campers to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and to live for Him." We continue to look for ways to accomplish this mission throughout our entire camping program and look forward to the many ways God will use us to accomplish this goal.

2003 Camp Schedule

June 9-14	Junior Week 1
June 16-21	Jr Hi Week 1
June 23-28	Sr Hi Week 1
June 30-July 5	Family Camp 1
July 7-12	Junior Week 2
July 14-19	Jr Hi Week 2
July 21-26	Sr High Week 2
July 28-Aug 2	Jr High Week 3
Aug 4-9	Family Camp 2
Aug 11-16	Family Camp 3
Aug 18-22	Seniors Retreat
Aug 22-24	Singles Retreat
Sept 12-13	Couples Retreat
Oct 3-5	Youth Retreat

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Dear Ohio Ladies,

by Susan Johnson, OWMU President

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." God has so blessed and united our hearts and it is a great joy and honor to serve God with you. Please remember to give praise to God for our times together this fall at the state and area meetings and the retreats.

I would like to focus your hearts on some prayer needs for our missionaries.

1. Pray for unity. Philipians 4:2,3 Euodia and Syntyche were fellow servants and had some struggles being united. It is very common when you work closely with others for opinions to immerge selfishly. Please pray that God would be honored to give our missionaries unity and love for the spread of the Gospel. Recently, I felt God's tug on my heart to confront a person from whom I felt distanced. After I had wrestled in prayer and examined my heart for motive and love, God gave me grace to go to the person. The result—she opened up to me how I had hurt her. We both wept tears of sorrow for our apparent selfishness. The truth was, though, that neither she nor I had any idea that we had hurt anyone. Misunderstandings? Moments when we step out from under the Holy Spirit's leading? Things said in jest with a double meaning? Ladies, it happens way too often. Please pray that God would give us boldness and love to confront when needed. Please be that servant of God to your friends and seek God diligently for our missionaries.

#2. Pray for endurance. As I have spoken to many missionaries recently, I have noticed much turmoil in their circumstances and in the lives of the people they serve. Please pray that they will fix their eyes on Jesus Christ and follow close to Him. When *our* eyes are fixed on Christ our hearts are not overwhelmed because of the things around us and we are able to give ourselves to prayer for them and service to others where we live.

Here are a few specific prayer needs for some of the missionaries we love:

Remember Jim and Rachel Chambers and family as they are moving soon to the 2000 acre farm where the orphan homes are being built. This move will be hard especially for the children to adjust. They

need a storage container and truck to move. Seek God to raise up and prepare godly adults to parent the orphan homes. If you would like to receive an e-mail prayer update regularly just write them at Zambonia@zamnet.zm

Remember Dr. Jim and Esther Entner, who left November 24 for The Gambia. This is a Moslem field where missionaries are allowed in only for professional, medical or charitable activities. Pray for safety, strength in adjustment and open doors for the Gospel.

Remember Gary and Becky Kuhn they are no longer serving with ABWE and are now settling in Cedarville. Pray that God would direct their steps.

We need a church that would be led by God to host our Spring State Meeting, April 8, 2003. If you feel God leading that way please e-mail me at grankarladan@famsafe.net or call 440-636-5543. Thank you!

Pray that God would accomplish His will through the ladies of Ohio as we pray and give toward the goal of \$10,000 for 5 family units for the orphans in Zambia. We have received just over \$3700 at present.

"Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18). Ladies, pray on and on and on for the praise of our Savoir Jesus Christ.

His servant and yours,
Susan Johnson

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83-24th Street NW
Barberton, OH 44203
330-825-7072

Secretary

Betty Dyak
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330-724-9676

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2002-2003 Project
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Zambia, Africa
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Rachel Chambers
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for 5 family units

For an informative and inspiring
video of the project please contact
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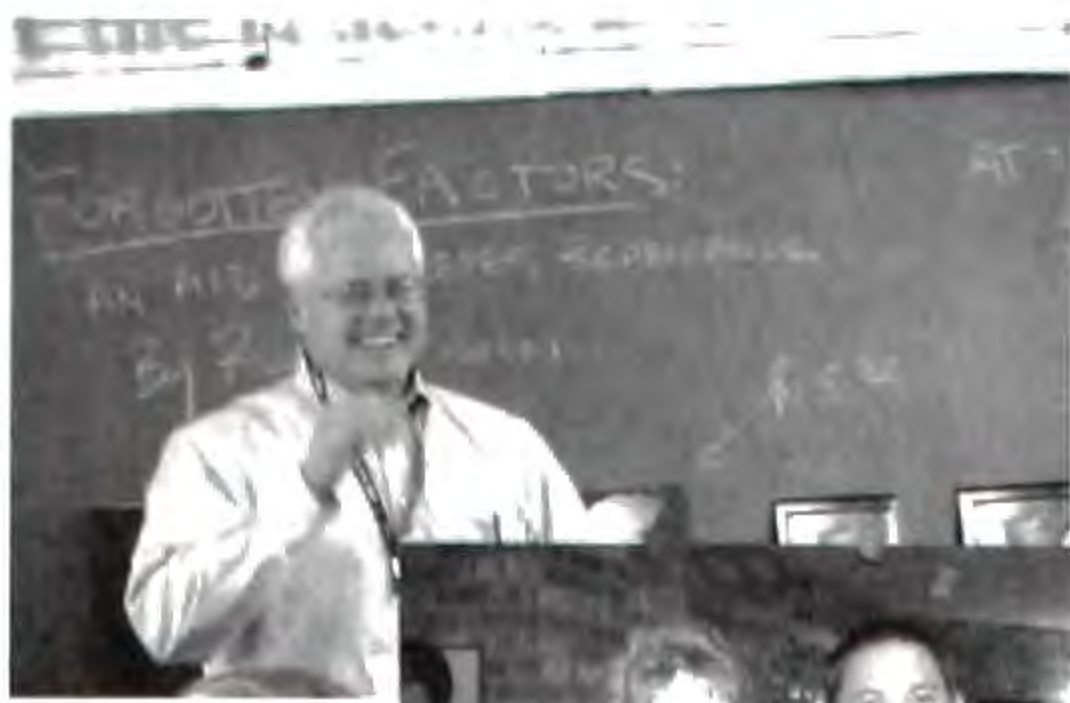
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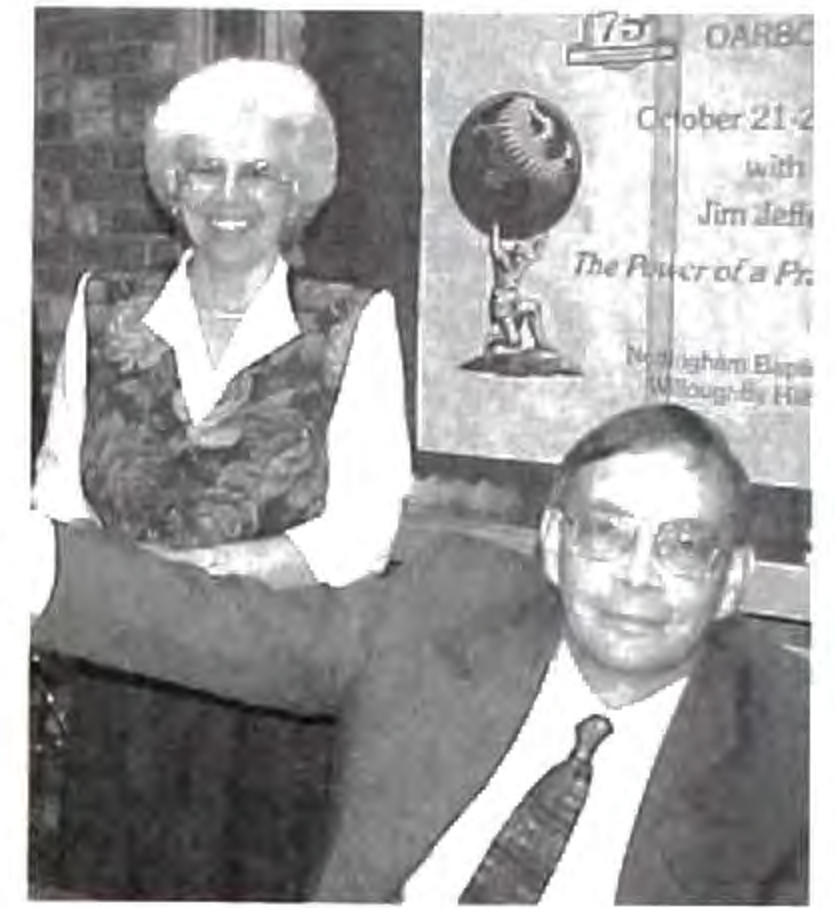
First Ladies Tea





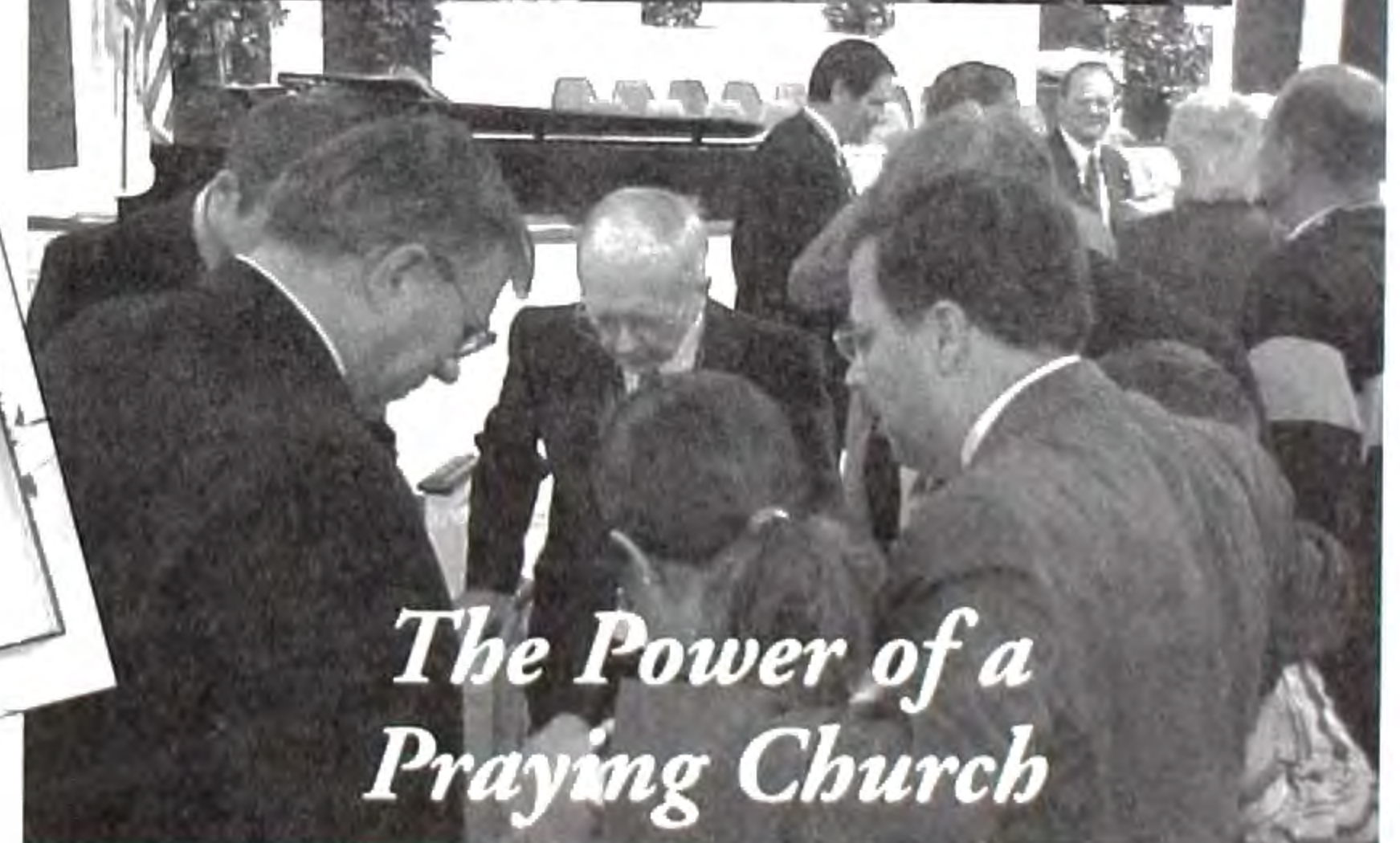
Speaker, Rev. Jim Jeffery
President, Baptist Bible College

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Host Pastor and Wife



Conference Songleader
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Graham Rd.,
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OARBC Conference



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Praying Church*



Something New -- Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003

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LUNCH

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and Max Tucker

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CONCURRENTLY



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OR
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